IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device connected to a network by a monitoring device, comprising:

realizing a location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device within the network;

updating in a first database the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for an identity of a manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

updating in the first database the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the querying for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is successful;

querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, for the identity of a model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is successful;

updating in the first database the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the query for the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is successful; and

establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device according to information stored in the first database.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is successful and the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is

unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means comprises establishing an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing communication means that is common to all devices manufactured by the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means comprises establishing an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing communication means that is common to all devices.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means comprises establishing an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing communication means that is common to at least one manufacturer of ~~image-forming~~ image-printing devices.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means comprises establishing an

~~image-forming~~ image-printing communication means that is common to at least one known model of the identified manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device utilizes the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device to query the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device with model identification codes that are particular to the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the unique identification of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device prior to the step of querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the unique identification of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is a unique sequence of data designated to the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device by the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of updating in the first database the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device includes updating the unique identification of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device in the first database.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is queried using Simple Network Management Protocol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of realizing the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device comprises automatically detecting that the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is electrically coupled to the controlling device.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of realizing the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device comprises obtaining the location by an input by a user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the monitoring device and the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device are networked computer devices coupled to one another by a network.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of realizing the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device comprises detecting, by the monitoring device, that the network location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device has changed.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is a network location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device on the network.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the network location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is an internet address.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first database can be accessed by an interface that is independent of the database file format.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the first database complies with the ODBC standard.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the first database is duplicated on a second database.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the second database is updated with at least a portion of the first database by utilizing transfer of data through email.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the transfer of data through email utilizes a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) means.

22. (Currently Amended) A monitoring device for monitoring an image forming device connected to a network, the monitoring device configured to:

realize a location of an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device within the network;

update in a database the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

query the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for an identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

update in the database the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the monitoring device is able to obtain the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

query the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer, for an identity of a model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device if the monitoring device is able to obtain the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

update in the database the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the controlling device is able to obtain the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device; and

establish a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device according to information stored in the database.

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~controlling~~ monitoring device for monitoring an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device connected to a network, the monitoring device comprising:

means for realizing the location of an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device within the network;

means for updating in a database the location of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

means for querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for the identity of a manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

~~a~~ means for updating in the database the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the querying for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is successful;

means for querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, for the identity of ~~the~~ a model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-

printing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is successful;

means for updating in the database the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device, if the query for the identity of the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device is successful; and

means for establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device according to information stored in the database.

24. (Currently Amended). A method for a monitoring device to establish a communication means for an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device connected to a network, comprising:

querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for an identity of a manufacturer and an identity of a model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is common to all ~~image-forming~~ image-printing devices if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device did not identify either the manufacturer or the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is common to all ~~image-forming~~ image-printing devices of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device identified the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device and the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device did not identify the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device; and

establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is particular to the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-

printing device if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device identified both the manufacturer and the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~controlling~~ monitoring device for monitoring an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device connected to a netrwork, the monitoring device configured to:

query the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for an identity of a manufacturer and an identity of a model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

establish a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is common to all ~~image-forming~~ image-printing devices if the query of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device does not identify either the manufacturer or the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

establish a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is common to all ~~image-forming~~ image-printing devices of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device if the query of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device identifies the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device and the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device does not identify the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device; and

establish a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is particular to the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device if the query of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device identifies both the manufacturer and the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.

---

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~controlling~~ monitoring device for monitoring an ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device connected to a network, the monitoring device comprising:

means for querying the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device for an identity of a manufacturer and an identity of a model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

means for establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is common to all ~~image-forming~~ image-printing devices if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device did not identify either the manufacturer or the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device;

means for establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is common to all ~~image-forming~~ image-printing devices of the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device identified the manufacturer of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device and the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device did not identify the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device; and

means for establishing a communication means for the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device using a communication means that is particular to the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device if the querying of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device identified both the manufacturer and the model of the ~~image-forming~~ image-printing device.